



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's, OCTOBER 1, 1958

#### HUNTERS FACE ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES IN COMING DUCK SEASON

Benefits to be derived from the restrictions placed on the harvesting of canvasback and redhead ducks during the coming hunting season will depend to a great extent upon the honesty of those hunters who can "spot a canvasback a mile away" and the earnestness of those who are not sure of the species until they have the bird in their hands, according to Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

Most of the good hunters can be expected to "play square with the birds," and do no illegal shooting, intentionally or otherwise, Mr. Leffler said, but he added that there is ample evidence every year of activity by those who refuse to play by the rules. Every possible effort will be made by Federal and State officials to see that the lawbreaker does not undo the good which will be accomplished by those who restrict their shooting.

The restrictions are expected to be especially effective in those areas where canvasbacks and redheads are known to concentrate year after year and where hunting them has become somewhat of a specialized activity. But since these species are rarely distributed during the migration and wintering periods the hunters of many states must face up to their responsibilities of looking carefully before pulling the trigger on incoming ducks.

Mr. Leffler sounded a word of caution to the hunter who can not readily identify the birds which are coming in on his blind--urging "if you already have cans or redheads in your bag and see some more ducks coming in, wait until you can be sure that they are not cans or redheads before you shoot."

Mr. Leffler followed this suggestion with a second one: "Make an effort to learn how to identify these species and other species when they are coming in. Conditions might any year force us to limit the kill on any one of a dozen species, to even grant a bonus bird of another species. Hence what you learn this year will be of value in other years. Your State fish and game department will aid you and so will the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Descriptions, pictures and posters will help but a lot depends upon how closely an individual observes the birds on and above the water. It will pay those who have considered a duck as surely a duck to learn a little more about them."

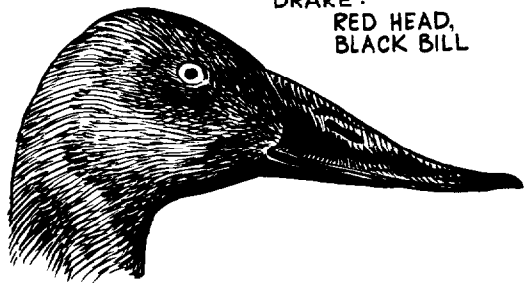
Under the 1958-59 regulations, hunters in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways are limited to two redheads or canvasbacks in the aggregate in the daily bag and four in the aggregate in possession.

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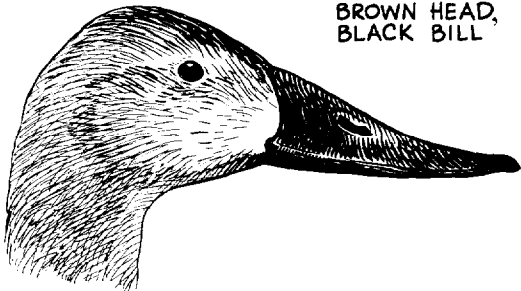
# LIMITS RESTRICTED FOR THESE TWO SPECIES

IN THE ATLANTIC, MISSISSIPPI, AND CENTRAL FLYWAYS

DRAKE:  
RED HEAD,  
BLACK BILL

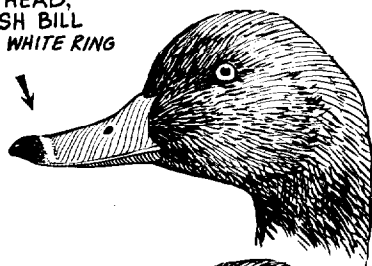


HEN:  
BROWN HEAD,  
BLACK BILL

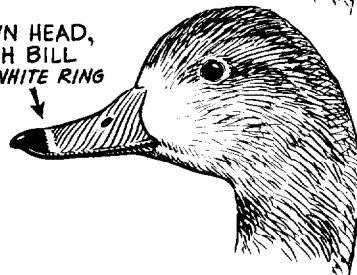


## 'ANVASBACKS

DRAKE:  
RED HEAD,  
BLUISH BILL  
with WHITE RING



HEN:  
BROWN HEAD,  
BLUISH BILL  
with WHITE RING



## REDHEADS.

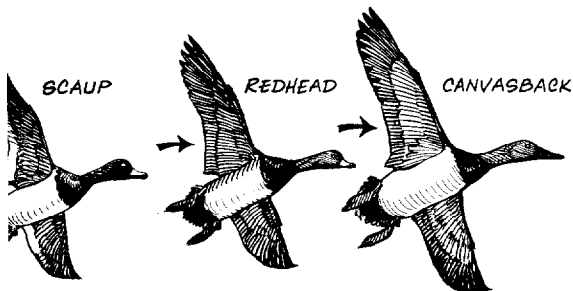
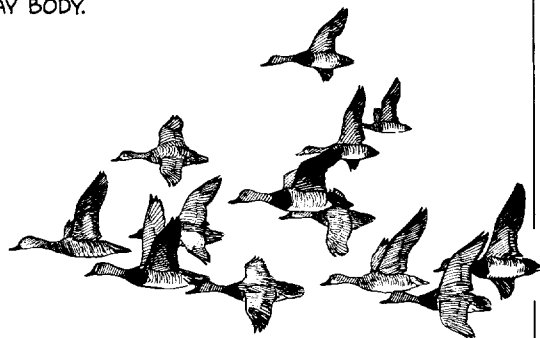
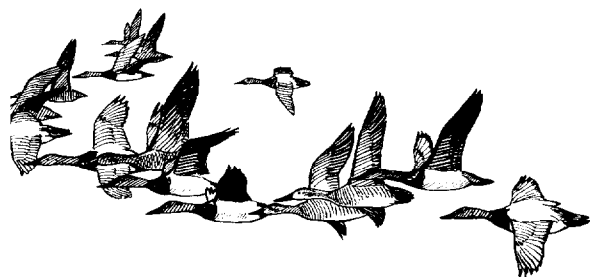
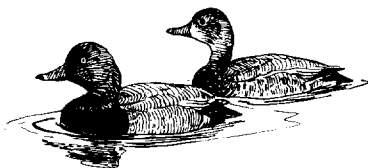
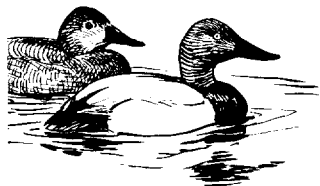
BOTH SPECIES ARE DIVERS, AND BOTH  
PREFER LARGE BODIES OF OPEN WATER.

CANVASBACK

DRAKE-RED HEAD;BLACK AND WHITE BODY.  
HEN-BROWN HEAD AND BREAST;SLATE-BROWN BODY.

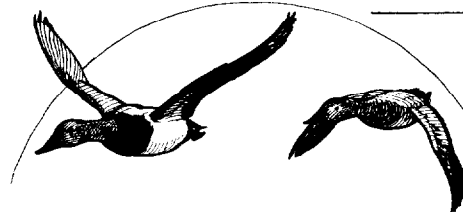
REDHEAD

DRAKE- RED HEAD;BLACK AND GRAY BODY.  
HEN-BROWN HEAD AND BODY.



BELOW, WINGS OF CANVASBACKS AND REDHEADS  
UNIFORMLY DARK EDGES. IN CONTRAST, SMALLER  
P SHOW WHITE SPECULUM, OR "WINDOW."

IG DUCKS HAVE SHORT TAILS, AND THE LARGE FEET  
USED AS RUDDERS IN FLIGHT.



For positive identification:  
LET 'EM COME IN CLOSE  
BEFORE YOU SHOOT

Then you  
KILL CLEAN OR  
MISS CLEAN

